Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An inter-router adjustment method, the method comprising:

~~an information request step of~~ requesting router status information of router ~~to all router~~ devices belonging to a ~~same~~common sub-network of a respective router device;

~~a step of~~ acquiring the router status information and calculating priorities ~~deciding~~to decide whether the respective router device ~~a router device~~ is to have ~~that is to become~~ an ~~operating~~operational status in which the respective router device is placed in operation based on the router status information, the router status information including at least line status information indicating a status of the physical link to the respective router device so that the ~~plurality of~~ router devices belonging to the common sub-network ~~can~~ operate ~~virtually~~ as one virtual router device; and

~~a step of~~ deciding a first router device belonging to the common sub-network that is ~~to become an operating status~~operational and a second router device to be placed in a standby status, according to the calculated priorities.

2. (Currently Amended) An inter-router adjustment method, comprising:

an information request step of requesting router status information ~~to~~of ~~all~~ router devices belonging to a ~~same~~ common sub-network;

a step of acquiring the router status information and calculating priorities for deciding a router device that is to become ~~an operating status~~operational based on the router status information including at least line status information indicating the status of the physical link to the router device so that ~~the~~a plurality of router devices of the common sub-network ~~can~~ operate virtually as one router device;

a step of transmitting the priorities calculated for each of the router devices of the common sub-network ~~respectively to~~between or among the router devices of the common sub-network; and

a step for a first router device which received the calculated ~~priority~~priorities to decide whether or not to become ~~an operating status~~operational, depending upon ~~the~~a calculated priority of the first router ~~its own~~ and ~~the~~a calculated priority of a second router device received from the second router device ~~being~~which is ~~in an operating status~~operational.

3. (Currently Amended) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 1, further including a step of adjusting the priorities between or among the router devices depending upon a significance of the router status information.

4. (Currently Amended) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 1, wherein a request for the router status information is periodically made based on the information request step.

5. (Currently Amended) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 1, wherein a request for the router status information is made according to a request from a communication device including the router devices connected to the ~~same~~common sub-network.

6. (Currently Amended) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 1, wherein the calculating of the priorities is made when there is a change in the router status information acquired.

7. (Currently Amended) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 1, wherein the router status information further includes ~~is~~ at least ~~any~~ one of ~~a line status,~~ a processing burden ~~and~~or a ~~battery~~ remaining battery capacity of the respective router device ~~itself~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A router priority calculation device, comprising:

a router information gathering section for gathering router status information of router devices belonging to a ~~same~~ common sub-network;

a priority calculating section for calculating priorities to decide ~~deciding~~ a router device that is to become ~~an operating status~~operational based on the router status information including at least line status information indicating the status of the physical link to the respective router device so that a plurality of router devices of the common sub-network ~~can~~ operate virtually as one router device; and

a priority notifying section for notifying the priorities calculated for the router devices respectively to the router devices of the common sub-network.

9. (Currently Amended) A router priority calculation device comprising:

a router information gathering section for gathering router status information of the router devices belonging to a ~~same~~common sub-network;

a priority calculating section for calculating priorities to decide ~~deciding~~ a router device that is to become ~~an operating status~~operational based on the router status information including at least line status information indicating the status of the physical link to the respective router device so that a plurality of router devices of the common sub-network ~~can~~ operate virtually as one router device;

a master deciding section for deciding a first router device that is to become ~~an operating status~~operational and a second router device that is to be placed in a standby status, according to the calculated priorities; and

a master notifying section for notifying information identifying the decided first and second router devices thereto ~~the router device~~.

10. (Previously Presented) A router priority calculation device according to claim 8, wherein the router information gathering section has a comparing section for comparing the router status information newly acquired with existing router status information, to instruct the priority calculating section to re-calculate a priority when the comparing section detects a difference in the router status information.

11. (Previously Presented) A router priority calculation device according to claim 8, wherein the router information gathering section has an information request section for requesting the router status information to the router device.

12. (Original) A router priority calculation device according to claim 11, wherein the router information gathering section has a timer, the information request section requesting the router status information when receiving a time-up notification from the timer.

13. (Currently Amended) A router priority calculation device according to claim 11, wherein the router information gathering section further includes an update request receiving section for receiving an update request for the priority from a communication device including the router devices connected to the ~~same~~common sub-network,

the update request receiving section, when receiving the update request, making a notification to the information request section whereby the information request section requests the router status information to the router device.

14. (Currently Amended) A router priority calculation device according to claim 8, wherein the router status information further includes ~~is~~ at least ~~any~~ one of ~~a line status,~~ a processing burden ~~and~~or a ~~battery~~ remaining battery capacity of the respective router device ~~itself~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A router device, comprising:

a status notifying section for forwarding router status information comprising at least ~~any~~ one of a line status indicating the status of the physical link to the router device ~~, a process burden and~~ or a ~~battery~~ remaining battery capacity of the router device;

a priority receiving section for receiving a priority for deciding whether the~~a~~ router device ~~that~~ is to become ~~an operating status~~operational so that a plurality of router devices that belong~~ing~~ to a ~~same~~common sub-network ~~can~~ operate virtually as one router device; and

a master deciding section for deciding whether the router device is to become ~~an operating status~~operational or to be placed in a standby status, according to the priority received and a priority notified from a first router device which is operational~~in an operating status~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A router device according to claim 15, wherein the status notifying section forwards periodically the router status information onto the common sub-network.

17. (Currently Amended) A router device according to claim 15, further including an information request receiving section for receiving a request for the router status information, to forward the router status information onto the common sub-network depending upon the request the status notifying section received.

18. (Currently Amended) A router device according to claim 15, further including a status monitor section for monitoring a change in the router status information, the status monitor section, when detecting a change in the router status information, making a notification to the information notifying section whereby the information notifying section forwards a latest router status information onto the common sub-network.

19. (Currently Amended) A local network system, comprising:

a router device that is comprised with

a status notifying section for forwarding router status information comprising at least ~~any~~ one of a line status indicating the status of the physical link to the router device ~~, a process burden and~~ or a ~~battery~~ remaining battery capacity of the router device, ~~;~~

a priority receiving section for receiving a priority for deciding whether ~~the~~a router device ~~that~~ is to become ~~an operating status~~operational so that a plurality of router devices including the router that belongs ~~belonging~~ to a ~~same~~common sub-network ~~can~~ operate virtually as one router device, ~~;~~ and

a master deciding section for deciding whether the router device is to become ~~an operating status~~operational or to be placed in a standby status, according to the priority received and a priority notified from a first router device which is operational~~in an operating status,~~; and

a router priority calculation device that is comprised with

a router information gathering section for gathering the router status information of router devices belonging to ~~a same~~the common sub-network~~;~~,

a priority calculating section for calculating priorities for deciding a router device that is to become ~~an operating status~~operational based on the router status information so that a plurality of router devices belonging to the common sub-network ~~can~~ operate virtually as one router device~~;~~, and

a priority notifying section for notifying the priorities calculated for the router devices belonging to the common sub-network respectively thereto ~~the router devices~~.

20. (Previously Presented) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 2, further including a step of adjusting the priorities between the router devices depending upon a significance of the router status information.

21. (Currently Amended) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 2, wherein a request for the router status information is periodically made based on the information request step.

22. (Currently Amended) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 2, wherein a request for the router status information is made according to a request from a communication device including the router devices connected to the ~~same~~common sub-network.

23. (Currently Amended) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 2, wherein the calculating of the priorities is made when there is a change in the router status information acquired.

24. (Currently Amended) An inter-router adjustment method according to claim 2, wherein the router status information further includes ~~is~~ at least ~~any~~ one of ~~a line status,~~ a processing burden ~~and~~or a ~~battery~~ remaining battery capacity of the router device ~~itself~~.

25. (Previously Presented) A router priority calculation device according to claim 9, wherein the router information gathering section has a comparing section for

comparing the router status information newly acquired with existing router status information, to instruct the priority calculating section to re-calculate a priority when the comparing section detects a difference in the router status information.

26. (Previously Presented) A router priority calculation device according to claim 9, wherein the router information gathering section has an information request section for requesting the router status information to the router device.

27. (Previously Presented) A router priority calculation device according to claim 26, wherein the router information gathering section has a timer, the information request section requesting the router status information when receiving a time-up notification from the timer.

28. (Currently Amended) A router priority calculation device according to claim 26, wherein the router information gathering section further includes an update request receiving section for receiving an update request for the priority from a communication device including the router devices connected to the ~~same~~ common sub-network,

the update request receiving section, when receiving the update request, making a notification to the information request section whereby the information request section requests the router status information to the router device.

29. (Currently Amended) A router priority calculation device according to claim 9, wherein the router status information further includes~~is~~ at least ~~any~~ one of ~~a line status,~~ a processing burden or ~~and a battery~~ remaining battery capacity of the router device ~~itself~~.

30. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the line status information further includes battery capacity information that indicates a remaining battery capacity of the respective router device such that the calculated priorities are based on the line status information and the remaining battery capacity of the respective router device.

31. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the line status information indicates at least one of: (i) a transmission speed of the physical link, (ii)

an error condition for the physical link, or (iii) a degree of congestion on the physical link, the physical link being different from any router device.